

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCING THE 12TH ANNUAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPO ON THURSDAY, MAY 14

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) Caucus, I rise on the occasion of the 12th Annual Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO, which will be held this Thursday, May 14 from 9:30 AM—5:00 PM in the Cannon Caucus Room. The EXPO is the RE&EE Caucus's signature event and this year will feature over 50 businesses and organizations showcasing cutting edge sustainable energy technologies. An afternoon speakers' series in 340 Cannon House Office Building will highlight the role that renewable energy and energy efficiency can play in the areas of economic growth, job creation, national security and energy independence. The event is free and open to the public. All are welcome and invited to attend.

HONORING THE UNPRECEDENTED CAMPAIGN TO END TYRANNY

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Unprecedented Campaign to End Tyranny, which took place on May 9, 2009.

The Unprecedented Campaign to End Tyranny is a Midwest tour across nine states to support the people who have peacefully quit the Chinese Communist Party. It celebrates the condemnation of communism and the evolution of attitudes that encourage freedom of speech, religion, and expression. Since 2004, nearly fifty-four million Chinese citizens have bravely and publicly disassociated themselves with the Chinese Communist Party. This number continues to grow by up to 40,000 each day. The defection movement is gaining in momentum.

Madam Speaker, it is the responsibility and duty of free Americans to stand with those who yearn to be free. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the bravery of those who have had the daring audacity to publicly step forward and denounce the stifling oppression of communism, and embrace the ideals of freedom and liberty.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 338, supporting the goals and ideals of National Community College Month.

Community colleges offer the opportunity of an affordable college education to students, working adults with busy schedules and people looking for an alternative to a traditional liberal arts education. Their programs help address some of the most pressing workforce demands in our country, including nursing, engineering technology, allied health, law enforcement and computer technology among others. More recently, community colleges have heeded the call for skilled workers necessary to build and maintain wind and water turbines, solar panels and other technology needed to produce a clean, renewable energy infrastructure here in the United States.

During these tough economic times, the need for advanced education and skills is more important than ever to finding well paid work in an increasingly competitive workforce. Community colleges like Palm Beach Community College and Broward College located in my congressional district offer customized continuing education programs to fit the needs of emerging and evolving industries in our community—with online, distance learning courses to better accommodate working adults with families and busy work schedules. The flexibility and affordability of many community college programs allows Americans from every walk of life to pursue an advanced degree or certification that they may not have had the opportunity to pursue otherwise.

By providing everyone in the United States with the opportunity to further their education, we can build a more competitive, innovative workforce, capable of addressing the most pressing issues of our time, and restoring our place as a leader in the global economy. Community colleges will play a vital role in preparing young people and adults looking to further their education, with the skills they need to advance their careers, provide for their families, and get our economy back on track.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Last week marked the 30th anni-

versary of the first ever Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, made possible by a joint resolution signed by President Jimmy Carter.

I am proud to represent one of the most diverse congressional districts in the country. One in four of my constituents is of Asian Pacific heritage—many of whom are of Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese descent.

The 29th Congressional District boasts of an impressive list of Asian Pacific American civic leaders who are strongly committed to this community. John Chiang, serving California as Controller, is the highest-ranking Asian Pacific American elected state official. Also, as one of California's twelve constitutional officers, Judy Chu serves as Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization. Other state officials include State Senator Carol Liu and Assembly Member Mike Eng. On the local level, we have Alhambra Council Members Stephen Sham and Gary Yamauchi; Alhambra Unified School Board Members Chester Chau and Robert "Bob" Gin; Garvey School Board Members Janet Chin, Henry Lo, and John Yuen; Monterey Park Mayor Mitchell Ing and Council Members David Lau, Betty Tom Chu, and Anthony Wong; San Gabriel Council Member Albert Huang; South Pasadena Council Member Mike Ten; South Pasadena Unified School Board Member Joseph Loo; Temple City Mayor Judy Wong and Council Member Vincent Yu; and Temple City Unified School Board Member Janet Rhee.

During the 110th Congress, I had the distinct honor of introducing legislation to pay tribute to the former Mayor of San Gabriel, Chi Mui, by posthumously naming the San Gabriel Post Office in his honor. Chi was the first Chinese American mayor in San Gabriel, a city where close to half of the population is Asian American. The bill was signed into law on August 12, 2008 and the post office was dedicated on October 25, 2008, one day before Chi's fifty-sixth birthday, making this the third post office in the nation to be named after a Chinese American. In addition, to commemorate Women's History Month earlier this year, I had the privilege of naming Melinda Hsia and Yin Yin Huang Women of the Year in the 29th Congressional District. They are truly exceptional women who have improved the quality of life for our community.

The contributions of Asian Americans to our country is not limited to the above-mentioned individuals. Our Nation has benefited from the contributions of Asian Americans for decades. The Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, commonly known as the "Go For Broke" regiments, courageously served our nation during World War II and earned several awards for their distinctive service in combat. Earlier this year, I introduced legislation to pay tribute to the "Go For Broke" regiment by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress's highest civilian honor.

This past April marked the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. It has been three decades since the United States and Taiwan

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

codified their commercial and cultural relations and a great number of my constituents have benefited greatly from this action. I also recently had the pleasure of participating in the Committee of 100 19th Annual Conference—a forum to address issues regarding U.S.-China relations and issues of importance to the Chinese American community.

Americans of Asian descent are one of the fastest growing minority groups in the nation. I am positive that in the years to come, we will be adding many more names to the growing list of civic leaders and many more distinctions to their list of accomplishments. I am truly honored to represent the many extraordinary men and women in my district and commend their selfless dedication and service to the community.

COMMEMORATING SEABISCUIT AT  
RIDGEWOOD RANCH

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the legendary racehorse Seabiscuit, who lived his final days at Ridgewood Ranch in my congressional district. Today Seabiscuit is being honored by the release of a United States Postal Service commemorative stamped envelope.

This thoroughbred race horse is noteworthy for uplifting the spirit of the nation, for tenacity in the face of adversity and for the beautiful and benevolent ranch where he spent his last years. Described as a “smallish horse with an ungainly stride” Seabiscuit grew to be a champion. His owners Marcela and Charles Howard purchased the 16,000 acre Ridgewood Ranch just south of the town of Willits along Highway 101 in Mendocino County in 1919.

During the Great Depression in the 1930s Seabiscuit became a national favorite and a symbol of hope. The American public cheered him and themselves as he beat the odds winning 33 of his 89 career races. He has been the subject of books, movies and countless articles. His crowning achievement happened in 1938 when Seabiscuit beat the Triple Crown winner War Admiral. This victory is commemorated on the new stamped envelope.

Over the years Seabiscuit recovered from injuries and recuperated at Ridgewood Ranch, drawing up to 50,000 visitors, who made their way to this rural northern California retreat until his death in 1947. Upon his retirement from racing Seabiscuit was horse racing's all-time leading money winner. He sired 109 foals and his stud barn has been carefully restored by the local Rotary Club with help from the Willits Chamber of Commerce and the Mendocino County Museum. He was inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in 1958.

The Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation protects and preserves the historic buildings and extraordinary natural resources of the surviving 5,000 acres of Ridgewood Ranch. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has identified the habitat as one of America's most endangered historic places. The Ranch hosts a therapeutic horseback riding program for the developmentally disabled. Christ's Church of the Golden Rule has owned the ranch since 1962. It generously hosts visitors to

Seabiscuit's barn, walking tours of the ranch and fundraising benefits for such causes as rescue and aid for injured and retired thoroughbred race horses.

Madam Chair and colleagues, I am pleased to enter these remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD honoring the legendary racehorse Seabiscuit, the Heritage Foundation and Ridgewood Ranch. Let us salute their continuing legacy of historic preservation, environmental conservation and public education.

HONORING TIMOTHY J. DEWITT

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge Timothy J. DeWitt, upon his induction into the Recreational Vehicle and Manufactured Homes Hall of Fame.

As the Executive Director of the Michigan Manufactured Housing Association for over thirty years, Timothy has worked tirelessly to educate consumers, the government, and the media about the quality, affordability, and innovative design aspects of mobile homes. A significant leader in both the Housing and RV industries, he has received much acclaim for his direct involvement in their growth and expansion, including receipt of the Stiner Award for Executive of the Year and the MSAE Key Award.

Mr. DeWitt began his career in 1977 as the Housing Director for MMH as well as for the Recreational Vehicle Campground Association. His hard work, commitment to the industry, and dynamic leadership advanced him to the role of Executive Director in 1984. He is currently a key member of the Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes, the Michigan State Advisory Council, and the RV Committee on Excellence. The Recreational Vehicle and Manufactured Home Hall of Fame was founded in 1977, and honors Timothy this year for his outstanding contributions as an exceptional spokesperson for the industries.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Timothy DeWitt is an active volunteer and proud leader in his community. He is coaching Varsity Soccer at St. Michael School for the twelfth season, and is also responsible for establishing the Harvest Foundation, a non-profit organization geared at educating and providing scholarships for students who are interested in pursuing careers in the recreational vehicle and campground industries.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to this year's Recreational Vehicle and Manufactured Homes Hall of Fame Honoree, Timothy J. DeWitt, for his dedication to professional excellence and passionate loyalty to our community and country.

IN HONOR OF CYNTHIA  
DETTLEBACH, ROB CERTNER  
AND ALICE FINGERHUT OF THE  
CLEVELAND JEWISH NEWS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cynthia Dettelbach, Rob Certner and Alice Fingerhut as they retire from the Cleveland Jewish News (CJN) this year following a combined 80 years of service to the Cleveland Jewish community. I stand in recognition of their dedication to their community and their work as they celebrate the upcoming 45th anniversary of the Cleveland Jewish News on June 18, 2009.

Cynthia Dettelbach retires after an illustrious 31-year career at CJN, 29 of which she served as the newspaper's editor. In her capacity as a journalist, she traveled to Lebanon in 1982 to cover the Israeli-Lebanese war; visited refuseniks in the Soviet Union in 1985 and again in Israel and the United States after the fall of the Iron Curtain. During her time in Israel, she attended numerous international press conferences, met with members of the Ethiopian Jewish community and visited Palestinian refugee camps prior to the first Intifada in 1987. Cynthia was recognized countless times for her columns and articles from the Society of Professional Journalists, American Jewish Press Association and Women in Communications, among others. During her time at CJN, she expanded their coverage to include the arts, politics and controversial opinions which were formerly marginalized or omitted. In 2006, she was inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame.

Rob Certner worked at CJN for 11 years, many of which he served as its Chief Executive Officer, overseeing the expansion of CNJ to include the Source, JStyle, CJN's first website and its move to its current location in Beachwood. Rob served as treasurer of the American Jewish Press Association for 3 years, and served as its president for 1 year. He also served on the executive committee as Treasurer of the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce. During his tenure as CEO, Rob nearly doubled CJN's revenue.

Alice Fingerhut began her career at CJN in 1971, writing each subscriber's name by hand in a ledger and stamping each mail label. As the Executive Assistant for the paper, she was the public's first point of contact with the CJN offices and stayed with the paper as its offices moved around Cleveland and as the operations changed to include faxes, copiers and computers. For the last 38 years, Alice provided compassion, understanding, and empathy to the Cleveland Jewish community as they would deliver obituaries and news of happier occasions for the paper through CJN's front door. While working at CJN, Alice raised her 2 daughters, Ruth and Lisa, and her son Eric, who served the Cleveland community as a Member of the House of Representatives in the 1990s.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Cynthia Dettelbach, Rob Certner and Alice Fingerhut upon their retirement from the Cleveland Jewish News and in celebration of CJN's upcoming 45th anniversary on June 18, 2009.

KIMBERLY CROSS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kimberly Cross who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kimberly Cross is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kimberly Cross is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kimberly Cross for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

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**THE MEDICAID BIRTH CENTER  
REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2009**
**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicaid Birth Center Reimbursement Act.

Birth centers offer an alternative birthing environment to hospitals for mothers with healthy, low-risk pregnancies. They are also part of a vital safety net for Medicaid mothers across the country.

Last year, administrators at a birth center in my district reached out to me, distraught with what they saw as an impending Medicaid re-payment crisis. Even though birth centers had been recognized as Medicaid providers by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)—and, earlier, by HCFA—since 1987, over the past few years, CMS has begun disallowing federal matching funds for state Medicaid payments for freestanding birth center facility fees.

A recent decision by a federal administrative judge ruled against birth centers in a Texas Medicaid case, stating that CMS is not required to pay any state their federal match for birth center facility fees.

Without payment of these facility fees, birth centers in all states could be pushed to the brink of closure.

Today, I, along with my colleague Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, am introducing the Medicaid Birth Center Reimbursement Act, to ensure Medicaid birth center facility fee payments to states.

I urge you, Madam Speaker, and all of my colleagues, to support this legislation and ensure continued access to quality health care for pregnant women served by our Medicaid system in their districts.

**REINTRODUCTION OF "VOTERS'  
RIGHT TO KNOW ACT"****HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I, along with Representative PETRI (R-WI), reintroduce legislation to subject operators of push polls or phone banks to the same disclosure requirements as other types of political communication. It will not ban push polls or phone banking—it will simply create a level playing field for all types of political communication. Under this bill, any person conducting these types of calls would be required to disclose to each recipient of a call the identity of the organization paying for the call. In addition, the bill would require that campaigns and other organizations that conduct advocacy phone calls report to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) the number of households they have contacted and the script they used in making the calls. The bill would not interfere with legitimate polling, conducted either by candidates or independent organizations, as it would only apply to phone banks in which more than 1,500 households are contacted within the 25 days preceding a federal election.

**TRIBUTE TO JACK MALTESTER****HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I acknowledge the passing, on May 1, 2009, of former San Leandro Mayor Jack Maltester. His colleagues have aptly described Jack as "the most powerful small-town mayor in this country. None of us can duplicate what he did."

Jack Maltester transformed the face of San Leandro during his 20 years of service as mayor from 1958 to 1978. Even as a private citizen, his influence remained strong in San Leandro, the city in which he was born in 1913.

A printer by trade, Jack served an interim term on the council in the late 1940s. He won election to the council in 1956, was selected by the council as Mayor two years later, and became the city's first Mayor elected directly by the residents of San Leandro instead of the City Council.

He was re-elected in 1966, 1970, and 1974 but was forced to leave office in 1978 after a voter approved two-term limit was enacted.

While serving as San Leandro's chief executive, Jack was president of both the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the League of California Cities. Presidents Johnson, Nixon and Ford appointed him to a federal commission five times.

Jack remained active in San Leandro affairs until his death at age 95. He founded The Sentinels, a group of local businessmen who provide support to local political candidates and ballot measures. He also served as President of the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce and President of the California League of Cities.

He cultivated political talent, represented private real estate developers, served on the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum board and was a member of local civic and regional committees.

I feel privileged to have known Jack. I treasure the opportunity I had to work with him during his tenure as the City of San Leandro's Chief Executive, and the relationship we maintained when he became a private citizen.

I join the community of San Leandro in honoring Jack Maltester. He truly loved the city of his birth and gave it his all during his lifetime. His presence and contributions will be felt for years to come.

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**SARAH ELLIS**
**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sarah Ellis who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sarah Ellis is a junior at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sarah Ellis is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Sarah Ellis for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

**RECOGNIZING DALTON PEPPER****HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dalton Pepper, a member of the Pennsbury High School boys' basketball team and 2009 Pennsylvania player of the year. Dalton has excelled as a student athlete in Bucks County, and I am eager to see him continue that legacy next year at West Virginia University.

Dalton's hard work and dedication led him and his teammates to four straight undefeated league championships and into their fourth PIAA AAAA State playoff. He was recently named The Associated Press' 2009 Pennsylvania Class AAAA boy's basketball player of the year.

These performances earned Dalton a position on the Pennsylvania all-state team. His high school career record of 2,207 points, nearly 1,000 rebounds and a 104–20 record is an extraordinary accomplishment.

The recognition and awards Dalton has received throughout his high school basketball career are no small feat. For his leadership and determination, he has gained respect from

his coaches and teammates, not to mention the admiration of our community, which has cheered him along throughout his career.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Dalton Pepper for his hard work and dedication to the Pennsbury High School boys' basketball team—he sets an example for student athletes everywhere and I am proud to represent him.

#### CONGRATULATING JIM YOUNG

### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Jim Young on his recent retirement as an Iowa Director for the National Education Association (NEA). Jim has dedicated his life to the education of children and the representation of teachers. Jim has been teaching in Cedar Falls, Iowa, for 25 years at the elementary school level.

Jim has been actively involved at all levels of the National Education Association. He has held virtually every leadership position at the local level serving as president, vice president, treasurer and building representative. Jim has also chaired several different association committees including Governmental Relations, Communications and American Education Week.

In 2003, Jim began his first 3-year term as a member of the board of directors for the NEA. As an NEA director, Jim advocated for issues affecting Iowa teachers at the national level of the NEA. Jim served two terms as an NEA director and retires from the position this year as it is term limited to two terms.

I'm happy to report that Jim will begin his 26th year of teaching this fall. He will be teaching 4th grade at Helen Hansen Elementary School in Cedar Falls. I congratulate him on all of his success and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, from Tuesday, May 5 through Thursday, May 7, 2009, I was provided a leave of absence from the House of Representatives due to the hospitalization of my daughter, and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 231–242. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on Nos. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 239, 240, 241, and 242, and “nay” on Nos. 237 and 238.

#### HANNAH CLAYTON

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hannah Clay-

ton who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Hannah Clayton is a senior at Compass Montessori High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hannah Clayton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Hannah Clayton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

#### ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. LAVERNE RAGSTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and much gratitude that I rise to salute Dr. LaVeme Erin Ragster as she steps down from the Presidency of the University of the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Ragster was born and raised on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, where she graduated, as valedictorian, from Charlotte Amalie High School in 1969. Her educational career includes completion of a bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry, in 1973, from the University of Miami, a master of science degree in biology with an algal physiology concentration, in 1975, from San Diego State University, and a doctorate in biology with a plant biochemistry concentration, in 1980, from the University of California, San Diego.

Early in her career, Dr. Ragster served as a member of the teaching faculty at the College, which became the University of the Virgin Islands, where she was promoted from assistant professor to professor of marine biology. During that period she worked with a number of regional organizations, including the Caribbean Studies Association (past president), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (former board member, past chair of the board), Caribbean Conservation Association (past vice president), Island Resources Foundation (board member), The Nature Conservancy (former board member) and the Caribbean Council for Service and Technology (USVI representative).

In addition to her professional activities, Dr. Ragster has always been actively involved in her community. She has served as president of the League of Women Voters of the Virgin Islands, and in a number of leadership positions in the territory in non-governmental organizations, particularly in the areas of education and the environment.

The second decade (and beyond) of Dr. Ragster's career has been devoted to professional pursuits leading to positions of progressively greater administrative responsibilities. She held positions such as: Chair of the Divi-

sion of Science and Mathematics; Faculty Trustee to the UVI Board of Trustees; Acting Vice President for Research and Land Grant Affairs; Vice President for Research and Public Service; and Senior Vice President and Provost at UVI. In addition, during this period Dr. Ragster published a number of papers on the role of natural resources in resource management and development, produced programs for the training of faculty and resource managers, and developed curriculum materials to teach natural resource management at the university level in the Caribbean.

Dr. Ragster helped to link UVI with other higher education institutions in the region when she served as sub-secretary general for the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA) and as the coordinator of the Caribbean Universities for Natural Resource Management. More broadly, Dr. Ragster has served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Environment Program, as a member of the national Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and as a member of the National Commission on Environmental Justice.

For the last seven years of her career, Dr. Ragster has served as President of the University of the Virgin Islands. She became the first female and fourth president of the University of the Virgin Islands on August 1, 2002. Dr. Ragster currently serves as a member of the UVI Research and Technology Park Board, past Chair and current member of the University Consortium for Small Island States Governing Board, Vice President for the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA), member of the Liga Atletica Interuniversitaria de Puerto Rico y las Islas Virgenes Governing Board, a member of the American Council on Education's Organization of Women in Higher Education, a facilitator for the American Council on Education's Institute New CAOs, member of the Alexander Hamilton Distinguished Public Service Award Selection Committee, and the Caribbean National Resources Institute Partner, since 2009.

During her tenure as President, Dr. Ragster's leadership and commitment to excellence has been recognized by those both at home and abroad. Among community groups that have honored President Ragster are the Business and Professional Women's Organization, which named her person of the year for 2003. In March 2009, The Rotary Club of St. Thomas II bestowed the Paul Harris Award upon Dr. Ragster, as did The Rotary Club of St. Thomas East. Dr. Ragster has also been an honorary member of The Rotary Club of St. Thomas II for the past three years.

In early 2006, around the mid-point of her Presidency, Dr. Ragster received a Drum Major for Justice Women Leadership in Higher Education Award from the SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., Inc in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Ragster is married to Lloyd Gardner, an environmental planner, and they have two sons, Adrian and Alex.

Madam Speaker, throughout her stellar career, Dr. Ragster has displayed academic and professional integrity which has translated into the advancement of her students, her peers and indeed the entire Virgin Islands community. As she steps down from the presidency of the University, we are sure that this is but a step in the direction of even more commitment to community and advancement in both the personal and professional sphere. On behalf of the people of the United States Virgin

Islands, I would like to wish one of their favored daughters, Godspeed, as she moves forward on her life's journey.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE DELTA BATTERY, 216TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BATTALION FOR RECEIVING THE ARMY'S VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delta Battery, 216th Air Defense Artillery Battalion as it is honored with the Army's Valorous Unit Award. This award requires an immense display of courage and skill from the United States Army unit when faced with a hazardous situation.

I want to congratulate every member of the Delta Battery for their contributions to the Battalion and especially for the actions that have led to earning this award. As the second highest award a Battery unit can receive, you should be proud of your efforts as individuals coming together to accomplish a mission as a team. Your heroic actions are what make America's uniformed services the pride of America.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the Delta Battery, 216th Air Defense Artillery Battalion today. Their heroic acts of bravery are what keep our national values and liberties safe. Every American owes our servicemen a debt of gratitude and I hope these fine soldiers know that we appreciate all that they do.

DANIELLE CONTRERAZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Danielle Contreras who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Danielle Contreras is a senior at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Danielle Contreras is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Danielle Contreras for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE THOUSAND ISLANDS WINERY AS THE NEW YORK WINE AND GRAPE FOUNDATION'S WINERY OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Thousand Islands Winery upon being named the 2009 Winery of the Year by the New York Wine and Grape Foundation at its 38th annual New York Wine Industry Workshop and Unity Banquet. I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the winery and its owners, Steve and Erika Conaway, and extend my sincere wishes for their continued success.

The Thousand Islands Winery is located between Clayton and Alexandria Bay in Jefferson County, New York, which I am proud to represent. This incredibly picturesque area is known as the Thousand Islands Region and consists of over 1,000 islands that are located along the U.S.-Canada border within the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. Tourism has long been a crucial component of the economy.

The winery, which the Conaways established on May 16, 2002, holds the unique distinction of being the northern most farm winery in New York State. It has produced over 25,000 gallons of wines in 14 varieties and has won 21 medals for its wines in national and international competitions. Notably, its blush wine "Alexandria Bay Rose" won a double gold, best in class, at the 2008 National Women's Wine Competition in Santa Rosa, California.

Additionally, the winery was a founding member of the Thousand Islands-Seaway Wine Trail, which is over 78 miles long, and has already attracted more than 52,000 visitors since it was launched in 2007. The trail now consists of two grape nurseries, nineteen vineyards, and includes three other local wineries: the Coyote Moon Winery in Clayton, the Otter Creek Winery in Philadelphia, and the Yellow Barn Winery outside of Sackets Harbor.

Given the importance of economic growth to New York's 23rd Congressional District, I am particularly appreciative of the work done by the Thousand Islands Winery and others to develop the wine industry and the wine trail and thereby enhance the economy of the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I voted in favor of H.R. 1728, Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, during the first final passage vote. The vote was vacated three minutes into the vote due to a parliamentary error. I had left the building to return to California due to possible minor surgery on Friday, May 8, 2009.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARIAN ALICE "MALLY" MOODY

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the life and legacy of Dr. Mally Moody, her steadfast service in education, and her willingness to give back to her community in Oxford, Alabama.

Dr. Moody was born in Massachusetts on February 13, 1947, and came to Alabama over 30 years ago. As most folks that knew her can attest, she dedicated her life to education—working with students, teachers and school administrators alike. She taught math at Oxford High School and after retiring served on the Oxford School Board. She was in line to be the next president of the board.

Those she taught and all who knew her lovingly referred to her as "Doc" Moody.

Dr. Moody passed away on April 3, 2009, at the age of 62. On April 11, 2009, a celebration of her life was held at Grace Episcopal Church in Anniston, Alabama.

I am honored to help recognize this inspirational educator who spent her lifetime learning and always teaching. It is my hope her memory will serve as an example of what all educators can aspire to be.

BRENDA CATARINO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brenda Catarino who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brenda Catarino is a freshman at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brenda Catarino is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Brenda Catarino for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 34TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 34th 01 Annual Capital Pride

Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current ten-day-long celebration. This year Capital Pride Festival culminates with what Washington's City Paper has declared D.C.'s Best Parade for two years running, the Pride Parade on June 13th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 14th.

This year, the Festival's new organizers, the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc., anticipates an attendance of 250,000, making Capital Pride one of the largest GLBT festivals in the United States.

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which, in the early hours of June 28, 1969, New York City's GLBT community spontaneously and publicly asserted its rights in defiance of government oppression. The Capital Pride commemorates this event with the theme "Generations of Pride: Celebrate and Remember."

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community and the District of Columbia. Congress has much work to do. We must pass The Family Leave Insurance Act of 2009, Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act/Matthew Shepard Act, Safe Schools Improvement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, The Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, Uniting American Families Act, Responsible Education About Life Act, and the Early Treatment for HIV Act.

This year, as Iowa, Maine, and New Hampshire have extended full rights to their GLBT residents. Our city of 600,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States where all its citizens are denied their basic rights by being subjected to Taxation Without Representation.

The residents of our Nation's Capital are entitled all their rights as citizens. I support and, I will defend, D.C. Council's action to extend full faith and credit to all marriages contracted in the United States as necessary to stabilize and protect all D.C. Families.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that U.S. citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

**PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION  
WEEK**

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a strong history of public service.

Everywhere in our community we are surrounded by people working for the common good and devoting their lives to helping others. Our city is very fortunate to count on local, county, state, and federal employees, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our children are taught, our sick are provided the medical care they need, and everyday citizens have access to vital services.

Our public servants are not recognized or thanked enough for the work they do. In honor of public service recognition week, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for our public servants in El Paso, Texas. Here are just a few examples of those who continue to make significant contributions to our community.

Mrs. Deborah Hamlyn is a homegrown El Pasoan and veteran City employee of over 30 years. After being recruited by the City of El Paso for an internship with the Planning Department, Ms. Hamlyn continued to advance within the organization. She maintained various planning positions and in 1987 ultimately became the first female Director of Community and Human Development where she remained for over 15 years. Ms. Hamlyn now serves as Deputy City Manager and has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of her fellow El Pasoans.

Mr. Ray Resendez, III serves as the Regional Liaison Manager for the Governor's State Division of Emergency Management. After 20 years of serving the El Paso community as a firefighter, Mr. Resendez spends his energy making sure that our community is prepared for any unforeseen disaster or emergency. In these times of a heightened state of alert, Mr. Resendez serves the people of El Paso well, with great dedication and passion.

Another great example is Mr. Rodney Thompson at the Veterans Affairs Office in El Paso. He has worked diligently over the years to ensure that our nation cares for our veterans and affords them the dignity and respect that they deserve. He manages our veterans' cases and has been a great partner.

In addition to Mr. Thompson, our seniors and veterans in El Paso are fortunate to have people like Mrs. Rosanna Monge, a nurse practitioner at the El Paso Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic. Mrs. Monge has been a reliable advocate for our veterans when it comes to their health needs and is passionately committed to taking care of these men and women who have given so much.

Mrs. Nellie Velez is another great example of an outstanding public servant. She is the District Manager at the Social Security Administration in El Paso and takes great care in advocating on behalf of our seniors.

Ms. Isabel Mullens, the Acting Assistant Director of Field Operations at Customs and Border Protection in El Paso, has also devoted much of her life to serving our community. She started her career with the federal government on November 12, 1973. Initially hired as a GS-02 clerk at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, she has risen to her current position through years of hard work and dedication. Thousands of people cross back and forth from El Paso, Texas to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico both on foot and by car as our communities share strong economic, social, and cultural ties. Mrs. Mullens serves our community with compassion and vigilance ensuring that our ports facilitate trade and commerce and are safe and secure.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of the 16th Congressional District. Our community is vibrant and strong because of the individuals I have highlighted and the thousands of other public servants in El Paso who take pride in their work and their service to our nation. I salute all our public servants and honor them for their efforts.

TROY CAOILE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Troy Caoile who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Troy Caoile earned his GED and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Troy Caoile is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Troy Caoile for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his academic career to his future accomplishments.

**INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO REQUIRE THE ACCREDITATION  
OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with Chairman BARNEY FRANK, legislation that requires the accreditation of English language training programs for student visa holders.

Accreditation of these programs will ensure that foreign students here on temporary visas receive the high level English language education that they deserve and expect. And this legislation will help give the students a positive experience in America.

The bill prevents fraud in the student visa program and raises the quality of English language training programs in the United States. It does so by requiring accreditation, which is achieved only after certain learning criteria are met.

Under section 101(a)(15)(F) of the "Immigration and Nationality Act," a foreign national can get a student visa to study at a U.S. college, high school, or other learning institution, such as an established "language training program . . . approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security after consultation with the Secretary of Education. . . ."

This bill requires that a nonimmigrant foreign student seeking to enter the United

States to study at a language training program must enroll in a program that is recognized as accredited by the Secretary of Education. The Senate passed this legislation by unanimous consent last Congress.

Intensive English Programs ("IEPs") serve to teach English to foreign students. There are about 75,000 such students in the United States. The programs range in length from 2 weeks to 1 year, but average 12 weeks. There are nearly 1,000 IEPs in the U.S., and students must study a minimum of 18 hours per week to meet their visa requirements.

Currently all IEPs must be officially recognized, but that sometimes means there is just a check to see that the building in which the IEP is supposedly located actually exists. The result of such lax monitoring is fraud in the IEP community.

Illegitimate IEPs either do not teach English well or serve as scams for individuals who want to come to the United States through fraudulent means. In April 2008, the Los Angeles Times reported, "The operator of two English language schools was charged Wednesday with running a scheme that allowed foreign nationals, including several Russian prostitutes, to fraudulently obtain student visas to enter and stay in the United States."

And just 2 weeks ago, two individuals who ran an English language school for immigrants in Duluth, GA, were indicted for submitting fraudulent documents to the Department of Homeland Security. They did so in order to get student visas for "dozens, and perhaps hundreds, of 'students.'"

Such fraudulent programs, along with IEPs that do not function well, tarnish the reputation of the entire IEP industry. That's why the American Association of Intensive English Programs supports this legislation. And legitimate IEPs are interested in ensuring the quality of their programs.

Under this bill, IEPs can meet the accreditation requirement in one of two ways. First, they can be under the governance of a university or college that has been accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Or, second, they can be individually accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET) or the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).

The three typical steps in the accreditation process are (1) the completion of a written self-study that documents how the program or institution meets the standards of the accreditation agency; (2) a site visit by an agency team to verify that standards are being met; and (3) follow-up measures on the part of the school to correct any deficiencies, subject to review and final approval by the accreditation agency.

Currently, many legitimate IEPs are voluntarily becoming accredited on their own.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to cosponsor the bill.

KELSEY COMPTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kelsey Com-

ton who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kelsey Compton is a senior at Compass Montessori High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kelsey Compton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kelsey Compton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE ROCKY  
FLATS 1969 FIRE

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most fateful days in the history of the State of Colorado, the day the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant outside of Boulder nearly became America's own Chernobyl, some 30 years before that terrible accident in the Ukraine.

On Mother's Day of that year, a fire broke out amid the glove boxes in Building 776, where plutonium spheres were being manufactured for use as cores for some of the most powerful weapons in human history. The fire quickly spread throughout the facility, as many of the fire alarms had been removed to make room for more production. It is estimated that between 0.14 and 0.9 grams of plutonium 239 and 240 were released before a heroic band of perhaps 40 firefighters were able to control and eventually douse the fire. Those firefighters faced the immense decision of whether to battle the blaze with water, which could have set off a chain reaction with the resulting explosion literally contaminating the entire Denver metropolitan area. Luckily for us all, they chose correctly.

Still, plutonium was released into the environment from that accident, through the air vents in the roof of the building and via firefighters exiting it. Thousands of Coloradans were exposed, although how many we'll never know. The firefighters, of course, were exposed most severely, and everyone nearby faced greatly increased risks of serious disease. Indeed, many of those involved have since contracted and died from cancers and other conditions tied to radiation exposure.

I bring up the 1969 accident not only because today, May 11, is its 40th anniversary. I bring it up because the Americans who worked at Rocky Flats and other nuclear facilities around the Nation deserve our thanks, and our support, now that the nuclear arms race is a matter for the history books. They faced enormous risks. They worked with materials that are among the most toxic known to mankind, with half-lives of hundreds of thousands of years, all so that under the prevailing ideology of the time we were able to live our

lives safely. They are American heroes every bit as much as our wartime soldiers. In a sense, they were wartime soldiers: Soldiers of the nuclear cold war, and many gave their lives.

Several weeks ago, I along with my Colorado colleagues, Representatives PERLMUTTER, DEGETTE, SALAZAR, and COFFMAN, and Senators UDALL and BENNET, introduced H.R. 1828, the Charlie Wolf Nuclear Workers Compensation Act. The act would finally cut through the red tape that has prevented America's nuclear workers from gaining the compensation they were promised in exchange for their dangerous service. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to remember the risks and sacrifices made by heroic men and women in our nation's nuclear production facilities, which were located in virtually every State in the country, and to pass this historic piece of legislation.

FRANK CASADOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Frank Casados who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Frank Casados is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Frank Casados is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Frank Casados for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ROSA WALKER

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Rosa Walker, former Director of the Texas AFL-CIO, for her 38 years of visionary leadership. As a stalwart trailblazer in the Texas labor movement and Democratic politics, Rosa's accomplishments and admirers are many. Beyond her personal politics or civic niche, we can all celebrate her lifelong commitment to community involvement and public service.

Born in the Piney Woods in Hemphill, Texas, Rosa earned her high school degree from Pineland High School before she took up a career at Southwestern Bell. She subsequently joined the Communication Workers of America (CWA) where organizing piqued her interest. With CWA she served as a commercial job steward, rose through the ranks, and

would ultimately become a member of the CWA Executive Board. Later Rosa would join the union movement in a full-time capacity as an organizer for the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO. After working with the Harris County AFL-CIO, she joined the larger Texas affiliate in 1965, where she dutifully served until her retirement in 2003.

For nearly four decades Rosa served as Director of Community Services/Volunteers and Women's Activities Director with the Texas AFL-CIO. Throughout her tenure she championed the causes of "the least of these" and crusaded for social justice wherever it was found wanting. In spite of her often disparate tasks—coordinating disaster relief operations, lobbying the Texas legislature, or directing voter registration drives—Rosa brought a contagious sense of purpose to her duties. Middle class families across Texas owe her a debt of gratitude for her tireless efforts to open doors of opportunity. While politicians are thrust into the limelight, we would be remiss and foolish if we did not salute the too often unrecognized grassroots work of individuals like Rosa Walker. They truly help us to believe that social change can truly percolate from the bottom up.

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CONCEPCION ENRIQUEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Concepcion Enriquez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Concepcion Enriquez is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Concepcion Enriquez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Concepcion Enriquez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

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TRIBUTE TO SLAVCO MADZAROV

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Mr. Slavco Madzarov who will be recognized on May 5, 2009 by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark as "Humanitarian of the Year." It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for his story is a true embodiment of the American Dream.

Slavco Madzarov was born in Maravci in the Republic of Macedonia on August 16, 1957. After earning an Associates Degree in Skopje and completing his mandatory military service in the Army, Slavco left Macedonia to come here to the United States of America to find a better opportunity to fulfill his potential.

Slavco arrived here in December 1987, settling in Paterson, NJ. Three years later, he married the love of his life, Kamenka, and they moved to Clifton, NJ, where they still reside with their children, daughter Blagica, now 16, and son Steven, now 13. Slavco and his wife are naturalized citizens of the United States.

Within a few years of coming to the United States, Slavco opened his own business. Slavco Construction, Inc., specializes in removing asbestos and professionally executing technical and specific construction tasks. Slavco Construction, Inc. has grown rapidly and is recognized as one of the most respected construction firms in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. The company prides itself on abiding by environmental construction regulations. Slavco's talent, hard work and dedication have allowed him to celebrate the 18th anniversary of Slavco Construction, Inc., as a company in continual growth.

Slavco has made the most of the opportunities that have been possible for him, and he is always willing to help others in return. He spends much of his energy, good will and financial resources to improve the lives of the residents of New Jersey and also those in his homeland of Macedonia. Slavco has completed Community Emergency Response Team training, conducted by FEMA, and is a member of the President's Citizens Corps. In addition, he is an active member of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the President's Club, and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association.

Slavco has received awards and honors from the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, the Polish-American Children's Foundation, Passaic County 200 Club, New Jersey Civil Service Association, the Sheriff Jerry Speziale Foundation for Community Service, and the Giblein Association. He was named Man of the Year by the Greater Paterson Leadership Council. In a resolution passed by the New Jersey General Assembly, Slavco was recognized for his numerous and significant contributions to the State of New Jersey. He has been granted an Honorary Chieftainship in Nigeria and has participated on a mission to the country in 2003 to review and analyze the socio-political and economic situation there.

In the Macedonian community, Slavco is a member and supporter of the Macedonian Orthodox Churches Sts. Kiril and Metodij in Cedar Grove, New Jersey, and St. Nikola in Totowa, New Jersey. He is an avid soccer fan, and is a supporter of the Macedonian Soccer Club of Clifton, New Jersey, and the Miravci Soccer Club in Macedonia. Since its founding in 2004, Slavco has strongly supported the United Macedonian Diaspora, the only Washington, DC-based international organization representing Macedonians and Macedonian communities around the world. Slavco is the recipient of the September 14th Golden Plaque Award from the municipality of Sveti Nikole in Macedonia. Slavco and his family frequently visit Macedonia.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing

compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Slavco Madzarov.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Slavco's family and friends, all those who have been touched by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Mr. Slavco Madzarov to his community.

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HONORING LESLIE ANN JONES

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leslie Ann Jones, Director of Music Recording and Scoring for Skywalker Sound, in Marin County, California, for her 35 years as a trailblazer in the recording and music industries.

Ms. Jones began her career, making history as the first female engineer at ABC Recording Studio. Next, Ms. Jones joined the team at the legendary Automatt Recording Studios. It was there she began her film score mixing career, working on such acclaimed films as *Apocalypse Now*. She also recorded with many jazz greats, such as Herbie Hancock, Bobby McFerrin and Angela Bofill.

Ms. Jones took the experience and knowledge she gained while at Automatt and began a long and respected tenure at Capitol Recording Studios in Hollywood. While there Ms. Jones worked with such talents as Rosemary Clooney, Michelle Shocked and Michael Feinstein. Some of her film credits from Capital include, *Grace of My Heart*, *Lost Highway* and *White Men Can't Jump*.

In February of 1997 Ms. Jones joined Skywalker Sound. After only a short time she was elevated to her current position as Director of Music Recording and Scoring, becoming the first woman to hold this position. During her career at Skywalker Sound Leslie has won two GRAMMY awards. The first in 2004 for Best Chamber Music Recording for the Kronos Quartet's "Berg" project; the second in 2005, when she won as a recording engineer for Best Jazz Vocal Album for Diane Reeve's "Good Night and Good Luck" soundtrack.

In keeping with her tradition of "firsts" Ms. Jones also became the first female National Chair of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences.

Leslie Ann Jones is an inspiration for women in her industry; she continues to lead a fulfilling and accomplished career, marked with a pattern for establishing "firsts." I am honored to call her a constituent; congratulate her for her mastery in the recording studio, and thank her for her efforts to encourage women on the technical side of the recording community.

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STEPHANIE CHAPPEL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephanie Chappel who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Stephanie Chappel is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stephanie Chappel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Stephanie Chappel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAPTAIN JOHN FREIDHOFF

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Captain John Freidhoff, a beloved member of the Western New York community who died tragically on October 19, 2007 in a diving accident, while working for our region and our waterfront. Our community honors him today through the dedication of a research vessel operated by Buffalo State College's Great Lakes Center.

Captain Freidhoff's commitment to the Western New York community is evident by simply understanding the multitude of activities, organizations, and causes he was involved in. He was a firefighter and an emergency medical technician for the Lake Erie Beach Volunteer Fire Company in the Town of Evans, a diver for the Lake Erie Rescue Team, a Coast Guard Reservist, and an active member with the ALERT—Advanced Local Emergency Rescue Team organization. He was also a Cub Scout Leader for Troop 578, a softball coach, and a youth group leader for First Church of Evans.

As lead boat captain and field station manager for Buffalo State College's Great Lakes Center for the Environment, Captain John was a champion for the Great Lakes, dedicated to managing water science projects that help us learn more about our waters, marine life and the protection of our environment.

Captain John Freidhoff, at 46 years old, leaves behind his wife Victoria, and their four children: Melissa, Jessica, Shauna and Joseph John. Captain Jeff Ogden eulogized that, even with all of Freidhoff's commitments, he managed to "put his family first."

Captain John touched the lives of many in the Western New York area evidenced by a crowd of nearly 500 people, including 200+ military, law enforcement, and fire personnel, who gathered at his service to pay their respects to this selfless, hard working, and charitable man.

Today, in a fitting tribute, the State University of New York College at Buffalo names a research vessel in Captain John's honor. And as the Captain John Freidhoff Vessel sets sail, Captain John's legacy lives on across the waters of the Great Lakes through the research conducted by future generations.

It is my honor to pay tribute to Captain John Freidhoff's life of service to the community of Western New York. Our community will miss this environmental advocate, family man, friend, co-worker, honorable leader and waterfront hero.

HONORING THE BOROUGH OF DOWNINGTOWN ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a proud southeastern Pennsylvania community celebrating its 150th anniversary.

The Borough of Downingtown was incorporated 1859 thanks to the foresight and leadership of 54 citizens and landowners residing on approximately 1,500 acres, which were part of a land grant from King Charles II of England to Pennsylvania's namesake, William Penn.

Originally known as Milltown prior to the formal establishment of the Borough, the village was an important stop for merchants and others traveling between Philadelphia and Lancaster on our nation's first turnpike. Due to its proximity to Philadelphia, the Borough played a prominent role in our young nation's fight for independence by serving as a storage depot for General George Washington's Continental Army. Water from the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek powered paper mills and fueled industrial growth in the Borough well into the 20th Century. Although the mills have long since closed and might be considered relics of the past, the sturdy stone structures are being rehabilitated and viewed by elected officials and business leaders as an important part of the Borough's future.

Residents, businesses and community leaders will commemorate the 150th Anniversary on Saturday, May 16, 2009 with a celebration parade through the Borough.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Borough of Downingtown on reaching this amazing milestone and congratulating all of those whose tremendous community spirit that have made the Borough a special place to live, work and raise a family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 7, 2009, because of a procedural matter my last vote was not recorded on the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, and I had already left to return to do congressional business in the district.

I rise to confirm that I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 242, final passage of the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND DAVID EVERSON

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on May 17, 2009, the congregation of First Union Baptist Church in Galveston, Texas will celebrate Reverend David L. Everson, Sr.'s ten years of service as pastor with special "Tenth Anniversary/Appreciation Services." I am pleased to join the First Union Baptist congregation in congratulating Reverend Everson.

First Union Baptist has had numerous achievements under Reverend Everson's leadership. For example, First Union Baptist's Hall Chapel was repaired and adapted to serve as a computer school and resource center for youth and adult literacy. Reverend Everson also led efforts to repair the church parsonage. Currently, Reverend Everson is leading efforts to perform major renovations to repair the damage the church suffered during Hurricane Ike.

Reverend Everson has also ordained three ministers and three deacons. He will be ordaining another minister and deacon during his tenth anniversary celebration on May 17.

Reverend Everson has contributed greatly to both the church and the entire Galveston community by being there for all who need a friend, comforter, and spiritual counselor. Reverend Everson not only cares for those in his congregation, he is always seeking to bring new people into the First Union Baptist congregation. The people of First Union Baptist, and all of Galveston, are certainly lucky to have such a dedicated man as Reverend Everson in their community. I, therefore, again extend my congratulations and best wishes to Reverend Everson on the occasion of his ten year anniversary as the pastor of First Union Baptist Church.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE BOY SCOUTS

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chester County Council of the Boy Scouts of America as the organization celebrates the Centennial Anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. The Chester County Council has 17,200 Scouts and volunteers, and more than 111 million young people throughout the country have participated in the 100 years since the Boy Scouts of America was established. Generation after generation of Scouts have volunteered thousands of hours to clean-up streams, build parks and take on countless other projects aimed at improving the quality of life throughout Chester County and our great nation. In addition to providing a helping hand, Scouting instills critical leadership skills and timeless values such as patriotism, courage and self-reliance. A major reason the tradition of scouting has thrived during the past

century is due to dedicated volunteers and troop alumni, who graciously commit countless hours and endless effort to mentoring youth in their communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring The Chester County Council as they commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts and in recognizing the organization's vital role in building future generations of leaders.

MS. JESSICA LANGE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening in recognition of Ms. Jessica Lange of New York City, the guest of honor, as we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of The Butler Institute of American Art. Her work, 50 Photographs, is being celebrated by being on display here starting today through July 5th, 2009.

Ms. Lange began her photography career in 1967 while attending the University of Minnesota. Shortly into her freshman year, she left the University to travel to New York and Paris to pursue her passion for photography. While in Paris and other countries, she documented her travels through her photography. In 1973, she returned to New York and began taking acting classes. Just two short years later, she flew to Hollywood to star in her first feature film, "King Kong", launching her award winning acting career.

Ms. Lange has won two Oscars and been honored with countless other awards and nominations for her outstanding work. In 1982, she won her first Oscar, Best Supporting Actress, for her role in "Tootsie". Her second Oscar, Best Actress in a Leading Role, was won in 1994 for her role in "Blue Sky". Her acting career has spanned over 30 years, but has yet to end, as she recently appeared alongside Drew Barrymore in "Grey Gardens".

In addition to her acting career and photography, Ms. Lange has done volunteer humanitarian work around the world. She began working for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as a goodwill ambassador in 2003. During that same year, she took her first mission trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo to raise awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS and immunization for women and children.

Ms. Lange returned to her passion for photography in the early 90s when she received a Leica camera as a gift. Ever since then, she's been documenting her experiences around the world as an actress and volunteer. The collection of her photographs shown here at the Butler capture a range of diverse subject matter from her years of travel. Due to her artistic vision, we are able to be a part of a fifteen year trek from Romania to Ethiopia and back to her home state of Minnesota.

I would like to commend Ms. Lange for her continued selfless volunteer work and her dedication to the arts.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 338, supporting the goals and ideals of National Community College Month. Community colleges play a vital role in the education of our citizens, and as a member of the Congressional Community College Caucus, I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize the fine work done by our community colleges.

We can all agree on the increasing importance of a college education in today's knowledge-based economy. But many Americans do not have the opportunity to attend a 4-year university. These reasons can be many, and range from cost—an extremely important consideration in the current recession—to academics, family commitments, or distance from home. Often, these individuals turn to community colleges instead, and there they can receive workplace training, a GED, or an associate's degree, or to begin a bachelor's degree.

Community colleges often have lower, more affordable tuition costs, locations convenient to many homes, and day as well as evening classes on an extremely broad range of subjects from physics to literature to cuisine. These benefits attract an extremely diverse body of students who can also learn from the life experience of their classmates in a way that is not always possible in higher education.

Community colleges also teach important skills which not only allow students to earn a living, but also to contribute to the community at large. Law enforcement officers, fire fighters, nurses, and health care professionals are all educated at our nation's community colleges. Even the high-tech professionals who help shape the future of our technology and our world economy are products of community colleges.

In my own district, Northern Marianas College has undertaken the challenge of educating our young people. Over nine hundred students are enrolled at the college, located on a fourteen-acre campus on the island of Saipan. The college offers instruction in Business, Human Performance and Athletics, Languages and Humanities, Nursing, Education, Sciences, Mathematics, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts. I know that Northern Marianas College serves a very important function for its students in helping them achieve the goal of a college education and I believe career and vocational education like that provided at NMC is extremely valuable.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. I am proud to celebrate the goals of National Community College Month and encourage Americans to recognize their local community colleges as the important institutions they are.

RECOGNIZING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Con. Res. 111, a resolution recognizing the sixty-first anniversary of Israel's independence.

Just eleven minutes after the establishment of Israel on May 14, 1948, President Truman recognized its status as a sovereign nation. That moment marked the beginning of an enduring relationship between our two countries. Israel and its citizens have made outstanding contributions to global prosperity and culture. The whole world has benefited from Israeli advances in science, medicine, technology, and the arts. As the longest-enduring democracy in the Middle East, Israel is a strong and trusted ally in a volatile region.

After more than six decades, the United States remains committed to its friendship with Israel. This friendship has endured, and will endure, because our countries share fundamental values.

The Jewish People's Council, in approving the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel, articulated many of our common values, stating "The state of Israel . . . will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture."

On the occasion of its Independence Day, I congratulate the people of Israel for their continued commitment to these democratic principles. I look forward to strengthening our relationship based on our many common ties in the decades to come.

CONGRATULATING THE TRITON  
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I wish to extend my congratulations to the Triton High School Boys Basketball Team. The Triton Trojans succeeded in placing 2nd in the IHSAA 1-A State Tournament on March 28, 2009 at Conseco Field House in Indianapolis. After playing their way into the finals, they suffered a 55-66 loss to Jac-Cen-Del.

The Trojans worked tirelessly throughout the regular season in order to advance to the IHSAA 1-A State Tournament. They played with focus, determination and grit in the tournament and their tremendous effort closed out an impressive 24-3 season.

The Triton team is led by Senior William Keel, who is the only returning starter from their championship season, and Seniors Joel Meister, Dustin Kreft, Cody Carpenter and

Zachery Moriarty. Juniors include Curtis Nordmann, Benjamin Montalban, Camron Garey, Taran Holderman, and Kreig Voreis. Sophomore members on the team are Austin Davis, Griffyn Carpenter, Jordan Everett, Jordan Koontz, and Blake Lemler.

Also, I acknowledge the wonderful support the team had throughout their spectacular 2009 season. Head Coach Jason Groves and Assistant Coaches Landon Hawkins, Dave Carpenter and Matt Landis guided the Trojans to victory. I would also like to thank Principal Michael Chobanov, Athletic Director Mason McIntyre and above all, the fans in the community, many of whom traveled to Indianapolis for the game and gathered to welcome the team home after their victory.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the boys' basketball team of Triton High School, the coaching staff, the school administration, and the surrounding community for their accomplishments this season on the road to their 2nd place finish in the IHSSA 1-A State Tournament.

IN HONOR OF JUSTICE SANDRA  
DAY O'CONNOR

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who recently received the 2008 Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois. She was selected as the recipient for her lifelong commitment to good government and her devotion to promoting respect for the highest standards of public service, a record that is a tremendous source of pride among her fellow Arizonans. This annual award recognizes elected or career government officials, or former government officials, whose ideas, writings, or public actions have made a lasting contribution to the practice and understanding of ethical behavior in government.

Sandra Day O'Connor was the first female Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, serving from 1981 after her appointment by President Ronald Reagan until her retirement in 2006. Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, she was appointed and re-elected twice to the Arizona Senate, ascending to majority leader in 1973. She was later elected to the Maricopa County Supreme Court and appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. Currently, Justice O'Connor is the Chancellor of the College of William and Mary and serves on the board of trustees of the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Since her retirement, she has frequently spoken on the need to insulate the Court from political pressures. To support an independent judiciary, she has tirelessly advocated for the selection of judges based on merit.

I commend the Douglas Award national selection committee for recognizing such a deserving candidate. Justice O'Connor continues to be an excellent example of what others should strive for in public service. She has lead with courage while maintaining a very high standard of integrity in her public and private life.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Sandra Day O'Connor for bringing the very best to government and for her unflinching service to her community, state, and country.

COMMUNITY BANKS OF NORTH-  
EASTERN MINNESOTA ARE NOT  
THE SAME AS WALL STREET FI-  
NANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the small town community banks in Northeastern Minnesota. The vast majority of these institutions are in strong financial condition. They are not AIG, and they are not staring at large sums of "troubled assets".

The bankers living in my district don't need a bailout. They have money to lend to small businesses and families. They know their local communities because they live in them, their kids attend the local schools, and oftentimes, they personally know their customers from various interactions in the community. The financial strength of their communities directly affects them too, so they are actively working with customers who are experiencing problems repaying their loans—people who lost their job though no fault of their own and small business owners hit particularly hard by this historic economic downturn.

My constituents have seen rising foreclosure rates in their communities too, but it was not Northeastern Minnesota bankers who were responsible for many of these bad loans. Instead, it was often out-of-state mortgage companies who had overly risky lending standards and who did not understand the local economies of Northeastern Minnesota, let alone the housing market in general.

Irresponsible lending, over leveraging, and risky financial products by large financial institutions of Wall Street have had devastating economic consequences for families and small businesses located on Main Streets across Northeastern Minnesota. I look forward to working with Chairman FRANK and my colleagues on addressing the regulatory shortfalls that allowed the current financial crisis to occur and on addressing the regulation of so-called "too big to fail" financial institutions. These actions will be important to restoring the public trust in our financial system and our long-term prosperity.

I'm confident we won't have to work too hard on restoring public trust in the small town community banks of Northeastern Minnesota though, because the public trust in these institutions already exists. They have maintained public trust by doing what banks do—accepting deposits and making loans based on responsible leveraging and responsible lending standards.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH  
BIRTHDAY OF DOROTHY O'LEARY

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Dorothy O'Leary upon the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Dorothy O'Leary has selflessly dedicated her life to serving her community. Following her career at J.L. Hudson, she has become very active in her neighborhood, frequently participating and working with local Red Cross Blood Drives. She also volunteers her time regularly as an usher at the Fox, Fischer and Masonic Temple in downtown Detroit. Dorothy's faithful commitment to the Redford community is exemplified by the success she has had running the Used Bookstore at the Redford Township Library. In this capacity, she raises approximately \$20,000 per year to support the library, and is vital to its survival.

In addition to her devoted volunteer efforts, Ms. O'Leary enjoys spending time with the West Side Silver Ladies, a social group of Retired Detroit Police Officer widows. She also loves bowling with her friends, and treasures the time she is able to spend with her three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, as Ms. O'Leary continues her legacy of passionate philanthropy and eager altruism, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to Dorothy O'Leary on her 90th birthday for her enthusiastic leadership and loyalty to her community and country.

IN MEMORY OF BILL ROWELL

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on May 6th, the community of Lexington County lost a long time leader and friend with the passing of Bill Rowell. As a fellow Republican growing up in South Carolina in the 1960s, I admired Bill and counted him as both a mentor and a friend. His dedication and contribution to the communities he served was an example to all those who will follow in his footsteps. He and his first wife, Bobbe, were founders of the modern Lexington Republican Party and his second wife, Dee, was an inspiration for his public service.

Tim Flach of The State newspaper has thoughtfully penned the following fitting tribute to Mr. Rowell.

[From The State, May 9, 2009]

FORMER TREASURER REMEMBERED FOR CARE,  
PRINCIPLES

(By Tim Flach)

Friends remember Bill Rowell as a soft-spoken, progressive leader who helped make Republicans the political power in Lexington County.

Rowell, county treasurer from 1992-2007, died Wednesday at age 76 after a long illness. A funeral service for Rowell is set for 11 today at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington.

"He was quiet but he was firm," county Coroner Harry Harman said. "He stuck by the way he felt."

Friends credit him with investment improvements and modernizing operations that benefited taxpayers.

"He laid a foundation that we are building on," current Treasurer Jim Eckstrom said. "I'm going forward on his shoulders."

Rowell was in real estate sales before becoming treasurer. He was a leader of the resurgence of local Republicans in the 1960s and was active in several civic groups.

County political leaders called him an adviser who preferred to work mostly out of the limelight.

"He was a lot like a father figure to me," Sheriff James R. Metts said. "He was a guy you could go to talk to, who had quite an insight on things. I'm going to miss him as a person I can contact and bounce things off of."

Rowell was commemorated for his courtesy, even to those who strongly disagreed with him.

"He reminded me a lot of the Southern gentleman," county public safety director Bruce Rucker said. "As a public official, he was always customer service first."

Others said he took time to talk with taxpayers frustrated with bills and rules.

"He often took the blunt of ire for things others had done," county Councilman Smokely Davis of Lexington said. "He had the patience to explain things again and again and turn people around."

Away from politics, Rowell appeared in musical revues during the early days of the Lexington County Arts Association 30 years ago. He also was a fan of local theater.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, on Thursday May 7, 2009, I was traveling on official business outside of the country and missed six votes.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 406 (Rollcall 237) providing for further consideration of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act; "yes" on the Frank Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 238); "no" on the Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 239); "no" on the Price Amendment to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 240); "no" on the McHenry Amendment to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 241); and "yes" on final passage of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act (Rollcall 242).

#### BICYCLE SAFETY AT VIRGINIA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2009*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Inpatient RehabCare team at the Virginia Regional Medical Center for their safety education and outreach to Minnesota's youth. In addition to their outstanding work at the Medical Center, the RehabCare

team educates elementary school students throughout Virginia of the tremendous health risks associated with riding a bicycle without a helmet.

They recognize the importance of educating our youth during their formative years—at the age when they are most receptive—of the possible life-altering brain injuries that could result from not wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle.

In particular, Madam Speaker, I wish to laud the Inpatient RehabCare team in their most recent outreach to fourth grade students at Roosevelt Elementary School in Virginia.

Each fourth grade class participated in a safety awareness session where they learned about the lasting consequences of brain injuries and the importance of wearing bicycle helmets.

Students received real-life simulations of what their lives would be like with such brain injuries, demonstrating the difficulty of everyday tasks and making a lasting impression on the students on the importance of taking safety precautions when riding a bicycle.

Such hands-on scenarios—combined with the team's helmet safety information and their direct experience with assisting patients who have suffered brain trauma—provided these elementary students with invaluable life lessons in bicycle safety and the severity of brain injuries.

It is vital that we teach our children about the many benefits of active and healthy transportation and recreation through cycling; and safety education must go hand-in-hand with these lessons.

The RehabCare team's effective outreach to children is noteworthy and ought to be replicated throughout the nation. Their work—and the work of similar groups in the United States—is deserving of our recognition and continued support.

I thank the Virginia Medical Center's Inpatient RehabCare team for their inspiring leadership and dedicated work to instill in our children a lifetime of bicycle safety habits.

[From the Mesabi Daily News, May 6, 2009]

#### BIKE SAFETY BEGINS WITH A HELMET

(By Angie Riebe)

VIRGINIA—Writing your name while twirling your foot is not an easy feat. Nor is stacking playing cards in order if you're wearing glasses with lenses blocked by pieces of tape. And finding pencils, paper clips and rubber bands in a bowl of uncooked rice with gloved hands without looking is a downright laborious task.

But permanently living with the effects of a brain injury is much worse.

Fourth graders at Roosevelt Elementary in Virginia learned about the lasting consequences of brain injuries and the importance of wearing bicycle helmets during a presentation Wednesday at the school, led by members of the Inpatient RehabCare team at the Virginia Regional Medical Center. The students partook in several activities designed to simulate bike-related brain injuries.

"We don't want to scare them, but we kind of want to scare them"; just enough to motivate the use of helmets, said Robin Aronen, Inpatient RehabCare program director.

Karen Damberg, the rehab's community relations coordinator, approached the school about holding the seminar as part of the program's expanding community outreach initiative.

The school's four fourth grade classes were chosen to participate each in hour-long hel-

met safety awareness sessions because "that's the age where they start to think wearing a helmet is not cool," said Roosevelt Principal Willie Spelts.

Dr. Winston Schandorf, medical director at the rehab program, taught the kids about the brain and how injuries to different parts can cause such things as loss of vision, coordination and the sense of touch.

Students then got a real-life taste of what it would be like to live with such injuries.

A loss of touch would mean difficulty "buttoning your pants" and "you wouldn't be able to feel a zipper toggle," Damberg said to a group of fourth graders trying to find small objects in containers of rice while wearing gloves.

"You wouldn't be able to feel the temperature of water. Getting into the tub and shower would be difficult. You'd have to make sure the water wasn't too hot because you wouldn't know," she said, as the kids searched for a spoon, pencil, plastic baggie and other things.

Meanwhile, Aronen asked a group of youngsters to try writing their names on paper while rotating their right legs counterclockwise. "When you have a brain injury, things slow down. This is how it would feel," she said as the students struggled with the request.

At a table nearby, Schandorf had students attempt to put in order a deck of cards while wearing obstructed glasses. "See how difficult it would be," he said, noting that an injury to the back of the head could cause vision problems.

"There's nothing you can do to correct it," said the doctor. "The best thing you can do is prevent it. Wear your helmet all the time and tell someone if you fall and hit your head."

"It's important they learn at a young age to prevent brain injuries," Aronen said. The rehab program works with patients 18 and older who have suffered brain trauma.

"How many of you have been tempted to not put on a helmet because you're only going a block?" Schandorf asked, and a number of kids raised their hands. "That's bad news. You should keep your helmet with your bike always to wear even during short rides," he said.

"I learned when you fall you might lose your sight and hearing and not be able to feel things that good," fourth grader Kaitlin Knutson said after the activities. "Even if you don't have a helmet you should ask your mom and dad to buy you one, like for Christmas or something. And if you fall and hit your head you should tell somebody."

"It wouldn't be fun to have a brain injury," said 9-year-old Ben Kalinowski.

"Finding objects in the rice was the most difficult task," said classmate Mikayla Lutz. "I learned we should always wear a helmet. Some people don't think they're cool, but you should always still wear one," she said. "Some (helmets) can be really cool," she added later during a question and answer time.

"The kids have been asking great questions," Aronen said after the last session.

The fourth graders were given helmet safety information to share with their parents, and the students will create posters, based on what they learned Wednesday, for a contest. The rehab program will award helmets next week to the top two winning posters in each of the four classes during a follow-up presentation, and all of the kids will receive "goodie bags," Aronen said.

Spelts said he was thankful for the rehab team's effort. "Anything we can do to help the kids is great," he said.

VOTING AGAINST H.R. 1728

**HON. KURT SCHRADER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, we are in the midst of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Millions of Americans are losing their jobs and their homes. A complete lack of oversight, irresponsible lending standards, outright manipulation of the mortgage market place, and the loss of personal responsibility are at the root of the crisis. Such a crisis demands significant, meaningful reforms to prevent hardworking American families from being drawn into mortgages they cannot afford. This past Thursday, I voted against H.R. 1728 because it does not get us there.

H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, has some good features, but falls woefully short of serious reform. There are so many exceptions and caveats that lenders can still do most of the very things that got us into this crisis to begin with. Incentives that encouraged mortgage originators to lead people into mortgages they could not afford are not eliminated. New standards focusing on the borrower's "ability to pay" and "net tangible benefit" are a good start to meaningful reform, but the provisions enforcing these ideas are weak, untested, and definitions are left to regulators. Moreover, Wall Street's secondary mortgage market is protected from lawsuits and weaker Federal regulations are allowed to preempt stronger remedies currently available through state laws. It is not responsible for Congress to pass legislation that purports to prevent improper mortgage practices and market manipulations when in reality little will change. I do not agree with putting politics above good policy.

The bill gives regulators 12 months to promulgate a code and another 6 months to put that code in place. Congress should instead use that time to legislate good regulations, regulations that can outlaw the irresponsible practices that led to our current crisis. We have allowed the economy to become dominated by banks that are "too big to fail," banks that created this mess and asked the public to get them out. This bill trusts the actors who led us into the current crisis not to give into avarice and again find ways to manipulate the system, while creating obstacles for the small banks and credit unions that acted responsibly and had nothing to do with creating this crisis. We must take greater care to define what is permissible. We can and we must demand greater responsibility as we look to reestablish a functioning financial system.

In the final analysis this bill still allows Wall Street gamblers to bet on you losing your home. This bill does not make us anymore personally responsible than before. It does not require 10 percent cash down payments and 30 to 40 percent debt to income ratios; if the 31 to 38 percent standards were good enough for TARP and Treasury mortgage refinancing and modifications, why not include those standards here? Subprime mortgages are not banned. Securitization of mortgages is still allowed and therefore makes your house still subject to speculation beyond your control. Big profit motivated investment banks and hedge funds, which are still allowed to play their

games in the mortgage market in Wall Street's quest for the Holy Grail of "liquidity" over safety for homeowners. These issues need to be proscriptively addressed if there is to be any meaningful reform of the mortgage market. There is a reason the system worked well when community banks and credit unions that knew you personally guaranteed you the opportunity to own a home.

**FINANCIAL NET WORTH**

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, through the following statement, I am making my financial net worth as of March 31, 2009, a matter of public record. I have filed similar statements for each of the thirty preceding years I have served in the Congress.

**ASSETS**

| Real property   | Value               |
|---|---------------------|
| Single family residence at 609 Ft. Williams Parkway, City of Alexandria, Virginia, at assessed valuation. (Assessed at \$1,492,813). Ratio of assessed to market value: 100% (Unencumbered) .....       | \$1,492,813.00      |
| Condominium at N76 W14726 North Point Drive, Village of Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at assessor's estimated market value. (Unencumbered) .....   | 155,200.00          |
| Undivided 25/44ths interest in single family residence at N52 W32654 Maple Lane, Village of Chenequa, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at 25/44ths of assessor's estimated market value of \$1,813,100. .... | 1,030,170.04        |
| <b>Total Real Property .....</b>  | <b>2,678,183.04</b> |

**2009 DISCLOSURE**

| Common & Preferred Stock                | No. of shares | \$ per share | Value      |
|---|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Abbott Laboratories, Inc. ....          | 12200         | 47.70        | 581,940.00 |
| Alcatel-Lucent .....                    | 135           | 1.86         | 251.10     |
| Allstate Corporation .....              | 370           | 19.15        | 7,085.50   |
| AT&T .....                              | 5629.63965    | 25.20        | 141,866.92 |
| JP Morgan Chase .....                   | 4539          | 26.58        | 120,646.62 |
| Benton County Mining Company .....      | 333           | 0.00         | 0.00       |
| BP PLC .....                            | 3604          | 40.10        | 144,520.40 |
| Centerpoint Energy .....                | 300           | 10.43        | 3,129.00   |
| Chenequa Country Club Realty Co. ....   | 1             | 0.00         | 0.00       |
| Comcast .....                           | 634           | 13.64        | 8,647.76   |
| Darden Restaurants, Inc. ....           | 1440          | 34.26        | 49,334.40  |
| Delphi Automotive .....                 | 212           | 0.06         | 12.72      |
| Discover Financial Services .....       | 156           | 6.31         | 984.36     |
| Dunn & Bradstreet, Inc. ....            | 2500          | 77.00        | 192,500.00 |
| E.I. DuPont de Nemours Corp. ....       | 1200          | 22.33        | 26,796.00  |
| Eastman Chemical Co. ....               | 270           | 26.80        | 7,236.00   |
| Eastman Kodak .....                     | 1080          | 3.80         | 4,104.00   |
| El Paso Energy .....                    | 150           | 6.25         | 937.50     |
| Exxon Mobil Corp. ....                  | 9728          | 68.10        | 662,476.80 |
| Fairpoint Communications, Inc. ....     | 30.2714       | 0.78         | 23.61      |
| Gartner Group .....                     | 651           | 11.01        | 7,167.51   |
| General Electric Co. ....               | 15600         | 10.11        | 157,716.00 |
| General Mills, Inc. ....                | 2280          | 49.88        | 113,726.40 |
| General Motors Corp. ....               | 304           | 1.94         | 589.76     |
| Hospira .....                           | 1220          | 30.86        | 37,649.20  |
| Idearc .....                            | 67            | 0.04         | 2.68       |
| Imation Corp. ....                      | 99            | 7.65         | 757.35     |
| IMS Health .....                        | 5000          | 12.47        | 62,350.00  |
| Kellogg Corp. ....                      | 3200          | 36.63        | 117,216.00 |
| Kimberly-Clark Corp. ....               | 1740          | 26.75        | 46,545.00  |
| Merck & Co., Inc. ....                  | 30449         | 26.75        | 814,510.75 |
| 3M Company .....                        | 2000          | 49.72        | 99,440.00  |
| Medco Health .....                      | 8218          | 41.34        | 339,732.12 |
| Monsanto Corporation .....              | 2852.315      | 83.10        | 237,027.38 |
| Moody's .....                           | 2500          | 22.92        | 57,300.00  |
| Morgan Stanley/Dean Whitter ..          | 312           | 22.77        | 7,104.24   |
| NCR Corp. ....                          | 68            | 7.95         | 540.60     |
| Newell Rubbermaid .....                 | 1676          | 6.38         | 10,692.88  |
| JP Morgan Liquid Assets Money Mkt ..... | 279.04        | 1.00         | 279.04     |
| Pactiv Corp. ....                       | 200           | 14.59        | 2,918.00   |
| PG&E Corp. ....                         | 175           | 38.22        | 6,688.50   |
| Pfizer .....                            | 22211         | 13.62        | 302,513.82 |
| Quest .....                             | 571           | 3.42         | 1,952.82   |
| Reliant Energy .....                    | 300           | 3.19         | 957.00     |
| RH Donnelly Corp. ....                  | 500           | 0.31         | 155.00     |
| Sandusky Voting Trust .....             | 26            | 1.00         | 26.00      |
| Solutia .....                           | 82            | 1.87         | 153.34     |
| Tenneco Automotive .....                | 182           | 1.63         | 296.66     |
| Teradata .....                          | 68            | 16.22        | 1,102.96   |
| Unisys, Inc. ....                       | 167           | 0.53         | 88.51      |
| US Bank Corp. ....                      | 3081          | 14.61        | 45,013.41  |

**2009 DISCLOSURE—Continued**

| Common & Preferred Stock                                   | No. of shares | \$ per share | Value               |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Verizon .....  | 1509.55675    | 17.38        | 26,236.10           |
| Vodafone .....   | 323           | 17.42        | 5,626.66            |
| Weenergies (Wisconsin Energy) .....                        | 1022          | 41.17        | 42,075.74           |
| <b>Total Common &amp; Preferred Stocks and Bonds .....</b> |               |              | <b>4,498,644.11</b> |

| Life Insurance Policies                      | Face       | Surrender \$      |
|--|------------|-------------------|
| Northwestern Mutual #4378000 .....           | 12,000.00  | 86,681.48         |
| Northwestern Mutual #4574061 .....           | 30,000.00  | 208,485.38        |
| Massachusetts Mutual #4116575 .....          | 10,000.00  | 12,816.82         |
| Massachusetts Mutual #4228344 .....          | 100,000.00 | 324,980.56        |
| American General Life Ins. #5-16070591 ..... | 175,000.00 | 41,845.21         |
| <b>Total Life Insurance Policies .....</b>   |            | <b>674,809.45</b> |

| Bank & Savings & Loan Accounts                               | Balance           |
|--|-------------------|
| JP Morgan Chase Bank, checking account .....                 | 42,944.77         |
| JP Morgan Chase Bank, savings account .....                  | 11,315.15         |
| M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, checking account .....  | 8,809.84          |
| M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, savings .....           | 371.37            |
| Burke & Herbert Bank, Alexandria, VA, checking account ..... | 1,832.44          |
| JP Morgan, IRA accounts .....                                | 135,819.17        |
| <b>Total Bank &amp; Savings &amp; Loan Accounts .....</b>    | <b>201,092.74</b> |

| Miscellaneous  | Value               |
|--|---------------------|
| 2007 Chevrolet Impala .....  | \$10,375.00         |
| 1994 Cadillac Deville—retail value .....                                   | 2,700.00            |
| 1996 Buick Regal—retail value .....  | 2,355.00            |
| 1991 Buick Century automobile—retail value .....                           | 1,070.00            |
| Office furniture & equipment (estimated) .....                             | 1,000.00            |
| Furniture, clothing & personal property (estimated) .....                  | 180,000.00          |
| Stamp collection (estimated) .....   | 120,000.00          |
| Deposits in Congressional Retirement Fund .....                            | 174,512.00          |
| Deposits in Federal Thrift Savings Plan .....                              | 335,055.82          |
| Traveller's checks .....   | 7,800.00            |
| 17 ft. Boston Whaler boat & 70 hp Johnson outboard motor (estimated) ..... | 6,000.00            |
| 20 ft. Pontoon boat & 40 hp Mercury outboard motor .....                   | 12,000.00           |
| <b>Total miscellaneous .....</b>   | <b>852,867.82</b>   |
| <b>Total assets .....</b>  | <b>8,905,597.52</b> |

| Liabilities                    | Amount              |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| None .....                     | \$0.00              |
| <b>Total Liabilities .....</b> | <b>\$0.00</b>       |
| <b>Net Worth .....</b>         | <b>8,905,597.52</b> |

| Statement of 2008 Taxes Paid           | Amount       |
|--|--------------|
| Federal income tax .....               | \$113,028.00 |
| Wisconsin income tax .....             | 36,095.00    |
| Menomonee Falls, WI property tax ..... | 2,456.00     |
| Chenequa, WI property tax .....        | 23,569.00    |
| Alexandria, VA property tax .....      | 12,699.00    |

I further declare that I am trustee of a trust established under the will of my later father, Frank James Sensenbrenner, Sr., for the benefit of my sister, Margaret A. Sensenbrenner, and of my two sons, F. James Sensenbrenner, III, and Robert Alan Sensenbrenner. I am further the direct beneficiary of five trusts, but have no control over the assets of either trust. My wife, Cheryl Warren Sensenbrenner, and I are trustees of separate trusts established for the benefit of each son.

Also, I am neither an officer nor a director of any corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin or of any other state or foreign country.